DOCKET NO: 279096US3PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

: EXAMINER: YANG, J. KOJI TOKUDA, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 10/553,199

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1793 FILED: OCTOBER 13, 2005

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

PRODUCING REDUCED METAL

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 28, 2008, Applicant herein elect Group I, corresponding to claims 1-10, drawn to a method of producing reduced iron, without traverse for prosecution in the present application. A favorable and timely consideration of the elected species is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Robert T. Pous

Registration No. 29,099 Attorneys of Record

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/07)